



Get familiar with the Aruban food culture!



Page 9

TASTE OF ARUBA
Every Wednesday

Local Food & Drinks

Steelpan at 7pm

Local Art Display

Cultural Show at 8pm

Shopping & Entertainment Center Located in Palm Beach, across the Holiday Inn hotel



A ONE OF A KIND OPPORTUNITY NOT TO MISS OUT ON...

- ➔ This valuable domain land of 1070 m2 is located on a spectacular prime A location on the Malmok road, close to the Ritz Carlton.
- ➔ A 30 second walk to put your feet in the beautiful turquoise waters and feel the refreshing Caribbean breeze of the ocean.
- ➔ A perfect location to start building this ocean view villa with breathtaking areas to enjoy . (lot comes with approved building permit ready to start)

TikTok asks the Supreme Court for an emergency order to block a U.S. ban unless it's sold

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — TikTok on Monday asked the Supreme Court to step in on an emergency basis to block the federal law that would ban the popular platform in the United States unless its China-based parent company agreed to sell it. Lawyers for the company and China-based ByteDance urged the justices to step in before the law's Jan. 19 deadline. A similar plea was expected from content creators who rely on the platform for income and some of TikTok's more than 170 million users in the U.S.

"A modest delay in enforcing the Act will create breathing room for this Court to conduct an orderly review and the new Administration to evaluate this matter — before this vital channel for Americans to communicate with their fellow citizens and the world is closed," lawyers for the companies told the Supreme Court.

President-elect Donald Trump, who once supported a ban but then pledged during the campaign to "save TikTok," said his administration would take a look at the situation. "As you know, I have a warm spot in my heart for



A TikTok sign is displayed on top of their building in Culver City, Calif., on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

TikTok," Trump said during a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida. His campaign saw the platform as a way to reach younger, less politically engaged voters. The companies have said that a shutdown lasting just a month would cause TikTok to lose about a third of its daily users in the U.S. and significant advertising revenue.

The case could attract the court's interest because it pits free speech rights against

the government's stated aims of protecting national security, while raising novel issues about social media platforms.

The request first goes to Chief Justice John Roberts, who oversees emergency appeals from courts in the nation's capital. He almost certainly will seek input from all nine justices.

On Friday, a panel of federal judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit denied an

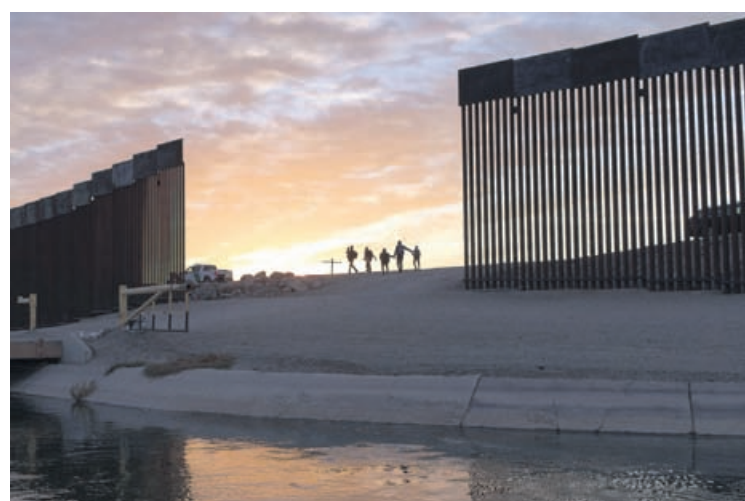
emergency plea to block the law, a procedural ruling that allowed the case to move to the Supreme Court.

The same panel had earlier unanimously upheld the law over a First Amendment challenge claiming that it violated free speech rights. Without a court-ordered freeze, the law would take effect Jan. 19 and expose app stores that offer TikTok and internet hosting services that support it to potential fines. It would be up to the

Justice Department to enforce the law, investigating possible violations and seeking sanctions. But lawyers for TikTok and ByteDance have argued that Trump's Justice Department might pause enforcement or otherwise seek to mitigate the law's most severe consequences. Trump takes office a day after the law goes into effect.

The Supreme Court could temporarily put the law on hold so that the justices can give fuller consideration to First Amendment and other issues. They also could quickly schedule arguments and try to render a decision by Jan. 19. On the other hand, the high court could reject the emergency appeal, which would allow the law to take effect as scheduled.

With that last prospect in mind, the companies' lawyers asked for a ruling on their emergency request by Jan. 6 because they'd need the time "to coordinate with their service providers to perform the complex task of shutting down the TikTok platform only in the United States." The case has made a relatively quick trip through the courts once bipartisan majorities in Congress approved the law and President Joe Biden signed it in April. □



A pair of migrant families from Brazil pass through a gap in the border wall to reach the United States after crossing from Mexico in Yuma, Ariz., June 10, 2021, to seek asylum.

Associated Press

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

The U.S. Census Bureau is changing how it counts immigrants in annual estimates by including more people who were admitted for humanitarian, and often temporary, reasons.

The change is being made in an effort to better reflect population shifts this decade, officials said Monday. Population estimates, including immigration, are due to be released Thursday showing how the populations of the United States and the 50

The U.S. Census Bureau is adding refugees to its immigrant count

states changed this year. However, the new approach to counting immigrants will only be reflected nationally. The percentage of U.S. residents who were foreign born rose to its highest level in more than a century in 2023. It could be even higher under the new methodology. Census Bureau officials wouldn't say Monday how much larger they expected the immigration figures to be in Thursday's release because of the change.

Capturing the number of new immigrants is the most difficult part of the annual U.S. population estimates. Although the newly announced change in methodology is unrelated, the timing comes a month before

a return to the White House of President-elect Donald Trump, who has promised mass deportations of people in the United States illegally. "We feel confident that this was a good approach in order to make our estimates more current and reflect recent trends that we've seen," said Eric Jensen, a senior research scientist at the Census Bureau. The bureau's annual calculation of how many migrants entered the United States in the 2020s has been much lower than the numbers cited by other federal agencies, such as the Congressional Budget Office. The Census Bureau estimated 1.1 million immigrants entered the United States in 2023, while the Congressio-

nal Budget Office's estimate was 3.3 million people.

The group of people being included in the international migration estimates are those who enter the country through humanitarian parole, which has been granted for seven decades by Republican and Democratic presidential administrations to people unable to use standard immigration routes because of time pressure or their government's poor relations with the U.S. The Migration Policy Institute, a Washington-based research organization, said last week that more than 5.8 million people were admitted under various humanitarian policies from 2021 to 2024. □

3 dead, others injured in a shooting at a private Christian school in Wisconsin

By SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A student opened fire at a private Christian school Monday morning in Wisconsin, killing two people in the final week before Christmas break. The shooter also died, police said.

Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes offered no details about the victims but said other people were wounded at Abundant Life Christian School, a K-12 school with about 390 students. Police previously said a total of five people had died but corrected the statement. Barnes said the suspected shooter was a student who likely died by suicide.

"They found the person responsible who was down, deceased," the chief said. The wounded had injuries ranging broadly from minor to life-threatening, Barnes said.

"I'm feeling a little dismayed now, so close to Christmas," he said. "Every child, every person in that building is a victim and will be a victim forever. ... We need to figure out and try to piece together what exactly happened."



Emergency vehicles are parked outside the Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wis., following a shooting, Monday, Dec. 16, 2024.

Barnes said police were alerted shortly before 11 a.m. and did not fire their weapons when they rushed into the building. Investigators believe the shooter used a 9mm pistol, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing

investigation. "I'm not aware that the school had metal detectors nor should schools have metal detectors. It's a safe space," Barnes said. Police blocked off roads around the school. Federal agents were at the scene to assist local law enforcement.

"We are praying for the kids, educators, and entire

Abundant Life school community as we await more information and are grateful for the first responders who are working quickly to respond," Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers said in a statement.

In a statement, the White House said President Joe Biden has been briefed on the shooting and officials were in touch with local au-

thorities to provide support. Abundant Life Christian School, which is non-denominational, asked for prayers in a brief Facebook post.

Bethany Highman, the mother of a student, rushed to the school after hearing about the shooting and learned over FaceTime that her daughter was OK.

"As soon as it happened, your world stops for a minute. Nothing else matters," Highman said.

"There's nobody around you. You just bolt for the door and try to do everything you can as a parent to be with your kids."

It was the latest among dozens of school shootings across the U.S. in recent years, including especially deadly ones in Newtown, Connecticut; Parkland, Florida; and Uvalde, Texas. The shootings have set off fervent debates about gun control and frayed the nerves of parents whose children are growing up accustomed to doing active shooter drills in their classrooms.

But school shootings have done little to move the needle on national gun laws. □

Associated Press

U.S. to require passenger vehicles to sound alarms if rear passengers don't fasten their seat belts

DETROIT (AP) — Starting in September of 2027, all new passenger vehicles in the U.S. will have to sound a warning if rear-seat passengers don't buckle up.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Monday that it finalized the rule, which also requires enhanced warnings when front seat belts aren't fastened.

The agency estimates that the new rule will save 50 lives per year and prevent 500 injuries when fully in effect, according to a statement.

The new rule will apply to passenger cars, trucks, buses except for school buses, and multipurpose vehicles weighing up to 10,000

pounds.

Before the rule, seat belt warnings were required only for the driver's seat. Under the new rule, outboard front-seat passengers also must get a warning if they don't fasten their belts. Front-center seats will not get a warning because NHTSA found that it wouldn't be cost effective. The agency said most vehicles already have warnings for the outboard passenger seats.

The rule also lengthens the duration of audio and visual warnings for the driver's seat. The front-seat rules are effective starting Sept. 1 of 2026.

Rear passengers consistently use seat belts at a

lower rate than front passengers, the agency says. In 2022, front belt use was just under 92%, while rear use dropped to about 82%. About half of automobile passengers who died in crashes two years ago weren't wearing belts, according to NHTSA data.

The seat belt rule is the second significant regulation to come from NHTSA in the past two months. In November the agency bolstered its five-star auto safety ratings to include driver assistance technologies and pedestrian protection.

Safety advocates want the Department of Transportation, which includes NHTSA, to finish several more rules before the end

of the Biden administration, because President-elect Donald Trump has said he's against new government regulations. Cathy Chase, president of Advocates for

Highway and Auto Safety, urged the department to approve automatic emergency braking for heavy trucks and technology to prevent impaired driving. □



A seat belt warning sign for the right front passenger seat is displayed in a vehicle on Monday, Aug. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

Man sentenced for helping pregnant Chinese women travel to give birth in the US

By AMY TAXIN

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California man was sentenced Monday to nearly 3 1/2 years in prison for running an extensive business that helped pregnant Chinese women travel to the United States to deliver babies who would automatically have American citizenship. U.S. authorities had sought a five-year prison term for Michael Wei Yueh Liu, who was convicted in September of conspiracy and money laundering for running a company known as USA Happy Baby. Phoebe Dong, who was married to Liu though the couple have since separated, was also convicted in connection with the scheme and is expected to be sentenced at a later date.

After receiving a 41-month sentence, Liu was led out of the courtroom by authorities and taken into custody. He gave his attorney his belt and a folder and held Dong's hand briefly while she sobbed. Federal prosecutors declined to comment immediately after Monday's hearing.

U.S. District Judge R. Gary



Federal agents raided about 20 locations, related to a birth tourism scheme, in three Southern California counties, including this apartment complex in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

Associated Press

Klausner said he reached the sentence determination by taking into account the convictions and some leniency because of Liu's responsibility as a caretaker for his older parents and his 13-year-old son.

Authorities said USA Happy Baby helped several hundred women travel from China to give birth to U.S.-citizen babies between 2012 and 2015. The pair charged the tourists as

much as \$40,000 for services including apartment rentals during their stays in Southern California and worked with overseas entities that coached women on what to say during visa interviews and upon arriving in U.S. airports, advising them to wear loose clothing to hide their pregnancies.

"For tens of thousands of dollars each, defendant helped his numerous cus-

tomers deceive U.S. authorities and buy U.S. citizenship for their children," U.S. prosecutors wrote in court papers. "This criminal conduct is serious and requires a meaningful sentence to promote respect for the law and hold defendant accountable." Kevin Cole, Liu's attorney, previously said his client should face a sentence of no more than 26 months and requested that he be

allowed to serve it from home. Liu, a 59-year-old father of three who was born in Taiwan and graduated college and served in the military there, has no prior criminal record and is the at-home caretaker for his parents, shuttling them to medical appointments, bathing them and cooking their food, Cole said in court filings.

"Mr. Liu poses no threat to society and a lengthy term of imprisonment is unnecessary to deter him," Cole said.

The case against Liu and Dong dates back years. Federal authorities searched more than a dozen homes across Southern California in a crackdown on "birth tourism" operators in 2015 and four years later charged the pair along with more than a dozen others, including a woman who pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 10 months in prison for running a company known as You Win USA. Such businesses have long operated in California and other states and have catered to people not only from China, but also from Russia, Nigeria and elsewhere. □

Former FBI informant pleads guilty to lying about phony bribery scheme involving the Bidens

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and JAIMIE DING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former FBI informant pleaded

guilty on Monday to lying about a phony bribery scheme involving President Joe Biden and his son Hunter that became central to

the Republican impeachment inquiry in Congress. Alexander Smirnov entered his plea to a felony charge in connection with the bogus story, along with a tax evasion charge stemming from a separate indictment accusing him of concealing millions of dollars of income.

An attorney for Smirnov declined to comment after the hearing in Los Angeles federal court.

Prosecutors and the defense have agreed to recommend a sentence of between four and six years in prison when he's sentenced next month.

Smirnov will get credit for the time he has served since his February arrest

on charges that he told his FBI handler that executives from the Ukrainian energy company Burisma had paid President Biden and Hunter Biden \$5 million each around 2015.

Smirnov had been an informant for more than a decade when he made the explosive allegations about the Bidens in June 2020, after "expressing bias" about Joe Biden as a presidential candidate, prosecutors said.

But Smirnov had only routine business dealings with Burisma starting in 2017, according to court documents. An FBI field office investigated the allegations and recommended the case be closed in August

2020, according to charging documents.

No evidence has emerged that Joe Biden acted corruptly or accepted bribes as president or in his previous office as vice president. While Smirnov's identity wasn't publicly known before the indictment, his claims played a major part in the Republican effort in Congress to investigate the president and his family, and helped spark a House impeachment inquiry into Biden. Before Smirnov's arrest, Republicans had demanded the FBI release the unredacted form documenting the unverified allegations, though they acknowledged they couldn't confirm if they were true. □



Former FBI informant Alexander Smirnov, left, walks out of his lawyer's office in downtown Las Vegas after being released from federal custody Feb. 20, 2024.

Associated Press

Germany's Scholz loses a confidence vote, setting up an early election in February

By GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost a confidence vote in the German parliament on Monday, putting the European Union's most populous member and biggest economy on course to hold an early election in February. Scholz won the support of 207 lawmakers in the 733-seat lower house, or Bundestag, while 394 voted against him and 116 abstained. That left him far short of the majority of 367 needed to win.

Scholz leads a minority government after his unpopular and notoriously rancorous three-party coalition collapsed on Nov. 6 when he fired his finance minister in a dispute over how to revitalize Germany's stagnant economy. Leaders of several major parties then agreed that a parliamentary election should be held on Feb. 23, seven months earlier than originally planned.

The confidence vote was needed because post-World War II Germany's constitution doesn't allow the Bundestag to dissolve itself. Now President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has to



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz speaks during a plenary session at the German parliament Bundestag where he faces a vote of confidence, Berlin, Germany, Monday, Dec. 16, 2024.

Associated Press

decide whether to dissolve parliament and call an election.

Steinmeier has 21 days to make that decision and, because of the planned timing of the election, is expected to do so after Christmas. Once parliament is dissolved, the election must be held within 60 days.

In practice, the campaign is already well underway, and Monday's three-hour debate reflected that.

What did the contenders

say?

Scholz, a center-left Social Democrat, told lawmakers that the election will determine whether "we, as a strong country, dare to invest strongly in our future; do we have confidence in ourselves and our country, or do we put our future on the line? Do we risk our cohesion and our prosperity by delaying long-overdue investments?"

Scholz's pitch to voters includes pledges to "modernize" Germany's strict

self-imposed rules on running up debt, to increase the national minimum wage and to reduce value-added tax on food.

Center-right challenger Friedrich Merz responded that "you're leaving the country in one of its biggest economic crises in postwar history."

"You're standing here and saying, business as usual, let's run up debt at the expense of the younger generation, let's spend money and ... the word 'competi-

tiveness' of the German economy didn't come up once in the speech you gave today," Merz said.

The chancellor said Germany is Ukraine's biggest military supplier in Europe and he wants to keep that up, but underlined his insistence that he won't supply long-range Taurus cruise missiles, over concerns of escalating the war with Russia, or send German troops into the conflict. "We will do nothing that jeopardizes our own security," he said.

Merz, who has been open to sending the long-range missiles, said that "we don't need any lectures on war and peace" from Scholz's party. He said, however, that the political rivals in Berlin are united in an "absolute will to do everything so that this war in Ukraine ends as quickly as possible."

What are their chances? Polls show Scholz's party trailing well behind Merz's main opposition Union bloc, which is in the lead. Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck of the environmentalist Greens, the remaining partner in Scholz's government, is also bidding for the top job though his party is further back. □

Pakistan begins last anti-polio vaccination campaign of the year after a surge in cases

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan on Monday began its last nationwide vaccination campaign for the year to protect 45 million children from polio after a surge in new cases hampered efforts to stop the disease, officials said.

According to the World Health Organization, Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan remain the only two countries where the potentially fatal, paralyzing virus hasn't been stopped, Pakistan has reported 63 confirmed cases since January.

Ayesha Raza Farooq, the prime minister's adviser for the polio eradication program, said the anti-polio

drive will continue until Dec. 22.

"As a mother, I am appealing to you to open your doors for health workers," she said.

Pakistan regularly launches such campaigns despite violence affecting medical personnel who oversee the vaccinations and security forces escorting them. Militants falsely claim that vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

Authorities deployed thousands of police officers to protect health workers following intelligence reports that insurgents could target them. However, gunmen opened fire Monday on po-

lice escorting polio workers in Karak, a city in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing a police officer and wounding a health worker, local police official Ayaz Khan said.

Also on Monday, a gunman riding on a motorcycle shot and wounded a police officer assigned to escort polio workers from a health facility in the northwestern city of Bannu, said local police chief Hamid Khan.

No one has claimed responsibility for the twin attacks. But more than 200 polio workers and police assigned for their protection have been killed since the 1990s, according to health officials and authori-

ties.

The latest anti-polio drive campaign began a day after Prime Minister Sheh-

baz Sharif met with medical staff and vowed that Pakistan would win the war against polio. □



A police officer stands guard as a health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child, in Peshawar, Pakistan, Monday, Dec. 16, 2024.

Associated Press

Serbian police use mobile phone spyware to keep track of opponents and journalists, Amnesty says

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) —

Serbia's secret service and police have been spying on journalists and opposition activists by installing spyware on their mobile phones, Amnesty International said Monday.

The watchdog's report, backed by testimonies of those who claim their phones have been hacked in recent months, says the spy software was used to unlock phones to capture covert screenshots and copy contact lists, which were then uploaded to a government-controlled server.

The report titled "A Digital Prison: Surveillance and the Suppression of Civil Society in Serbia" said the Serbian police and the Security Information Agency (BIA) used spyware to infect devices while their owners were detained or interviewed by police.

"Our investigation reveals how Serbian authorities have deployed surveillance technology and digital repression tactics as instruments of wider state control and repres-



A woman holds a banner that shows Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, reading: "You have blood on your hands!" and stopping traffic, standing in silence to commemorate the 15 victims of a railway roof collapse five weeks ago, demanding accountability for the tragedy in Belgrade, Serbia, Friday, Dec. 6, 2024.

sion directed against civil society," said Dinushika Disanayake, Amnesty International's deputy regional director for Europe.

Serbia's police said in a statement that the Amnesty report is "absolutely incorrect," but also added that "the forensic tool is used in the same way by other police forces around the world." Serbia's spy

agency said on its website that it "works exclusively in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Serbia."

"Therefore, we are not even able to comment on nonsensical allegations from their (Amnesty) text, just as we do not normally comment on similar content," BIA said.

The Amnesty report comes as President Aleksandar

Vucic is facing one of the biggest challenges to more than a decade of his increasingly autocratic rule, with widening anti-government protests that so far have been largely peaceful. Protests have been led by university students and opposition activists following the collapse last month of a concrete canopy at a railway station in the coun-

try's north that killed 15 people on Nov. 1.

Many in Serbia believe rampant corruption and nepotism among state officials led to sloppy work on the building reconstruction, which was part of a wider railroad project with Chinese state companies. The protesters are demanding legal action against all those allegedly involved, including the prime minister and the president.

Vucic has accused Western intelligence services, NGO groups and foreign media of conducting a "hybrid warfare" against him and his country by illegally financing the protest actions.

The Belgrade Center for Security Policy, an NGO group, strongly condemned the authorities' misuse of digital technologies for surveillance and demanded an immediate, transparent and independent investigation into the allegations reported by Amnesty International. It also called for the prosecution of those responsible within the police and the Security and Information Agency. □

Associated Press

Filipina who won a last-minute reprieve from Indonesian firing squad prepares to fly home

By SLAMET RIYADI and NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia

(AP) — A Filipina who was on death row in Indonesia and was nearly executed by firing squad in 2015 will

return home this week under an arrangement between the countries, officials said Monday.

Mary Jane Veloso, who spent almost 15 years in an Indonesian prison for drug trafficking, won a last-minute reprieve that led to her testimony exposing how a criminal syndicate duped her into being an unwitting accomplice and drug courier.

Veloso was moved late Sunday to a female prison in Indonesia's capital, from where she will be flown back to the Philippines early Wednesday, I Nyoman Gede Surya Mataram, an official at the Ministry of Immigration and Corrections, told a news conference. Her repatriation was made

possible by a "practical arrangement" signed between the two countries on Dec. 6, after a decade of pleading from Manila.

In a tearful interview with The Associated Press last week, Veloso described her return home as being "like a miracle when I have lost all hope."

"For almost 15 years I was separated from my children and parents, and I could not see my children grow up," she said. "I wish to be given an opportunity to take care of my children and to be close to my parents."

Veloso, who will turn 40 next month, was arrested in 2010 at an airport in the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta, where officials discovered

about 2.6 kilograms (5.7 pounds) of heroin hidden in her luggage. The single mother of two sons was convicted and sentenced to death.

Her case caused a public outcry in the Philippines. She traveled to Indonesia in 2010, where her recruiter, Maria Kristina Sergio, reportedly told her a job as a domestic worker awaited her. Sergio also allegedly provided the suitcase where the drugs were found.

In 2015, Indonesia moved Veloso to an island prison where she and eight other drug convicts were scheduled to be executed by firing squad despite objections from their home countries Australia, Brazil, France, Ghana and Nigeria. □



Filipino death row inmate Mary Jane Veloso gestures to the media as she leaves Yogyakarta Women's Prison for her transfer to the capital city of Jakarta in preparation for her repatriation to the Philippines, in Gunung Kidul, Indonesia, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024.

Associated Press

A guide for the perfect picture

Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

"I LOVE ARUBA"



Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear



Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a pic-



ture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute



snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our "Dorado"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Dorado", a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish



in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an

exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that

age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too. They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you

keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called "bull Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic ad-

venture that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Sunday to Thursday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at www.paseoherencia.com.



Celebrating Forty Years - 1,600,000 Point Giveaway Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

2X *Double Point Tuesday!*

**Earn
DOUBLE POINTS
all day long!**

Use your Players' Club card
to play our slots and we'll
DOUBLE your points!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins | M8 Botique
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Fusion - Piano & Wine Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Treasure Cove
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard | The Market
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 588.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.



Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again



largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find

around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



TRY OUR POKES, BAOS, SUSHI, AND MORE!

 Po-Ké Ono
  pokeonaruba
  Po-Ké Ono Azure
J.E. Irausquin Blvd 260.

 Po-Ké Ono Aruba
  www.pokeonoaruba.com
 Po-Ké Ono Marketplace
L.G. Smith Blvd 9, Unit 25.

Meet our Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe



(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father,

was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from august 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world. One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi. In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several painting using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs). Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phe-



nomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in

the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals

also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean



floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental

island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it



was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very

interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down,

and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □

CROSSWORD

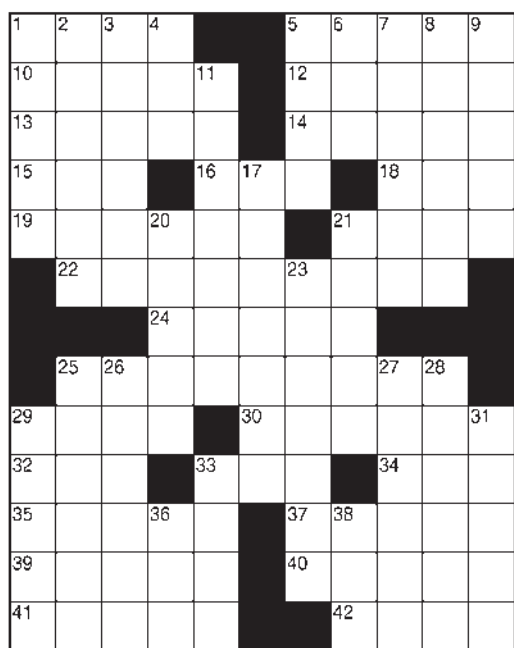
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Sacred garments
- bird of Egypt
- 5 Milky gems
- 10 Hedgehog of games
- 12 Studio work
- 13 Game with a drawing
- 14 Not napping
- 15 Moody music
- 16 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
- 18 Lasso of TV
- 19 Muscle connector
- 21 Buds
- 22 Journal words
- 24 Suspicious
- 25 Grassland rodent
- 29 Without
- 30 To some extent
- 32 Botch
- 33 Corp. or Sgt.
- 34 Summer sign
- 35 Fad
- 37 City on the Mohawk River

DOWN

- 1 Key
- 2 Sounded like thunder
- 3 Chant
- 4 Remain unused
- 5 Mideast sultanate
- 6 Punch sound
- 7 Film set on Pandora
- 8 Probable
- 9 Gardener's buy
- 11 Salon worker
- 17 Natural
- 20 Valleys
- 21 Settle the bill
- 23 Resolve
- 25 Scopes trial
- 26 Incense
- 27 Like tears
- 28 Puts up
- 29 Splinter groups
- 31 Tribute of a sort
- 33 Egg holder
- 36 Ray-gun sound
- 38 Pointer



12-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

P Z F L N X L J M I K Z M

L F B I S K Z M K K O L M A . L K ' J

Y T Y S X K O L M A . — F L U O Z Y N

R . P I W

Cryptoquote: IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE YOURSELF, TO FORGIVE. FORGIVE EVERYBODY. — MAYA ANGELOU

Cruise ship Schedule: December 16 - 22 2024

| | | | ARR | DEPT | BERTH | |
|-----|----|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| MON | 16 | ENCHANTED PRINCESS | 08.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 |
| TUE | 17 | GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS | 08.00 | 21.00 | B | 1 |
| | | CARNIVAL MAGIC | 09.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 |
| | | NORWEGIAN VIVA | 13.00 | 21.00 | I | 1 |
| WED | 18 | NORWEGIAN JEWEL | 14.30 | 21.00 | C | 1 |
| | | FREEWINDS | 06.00 | **** | E | 1 |
| FRI | 20 | CARNIVAL MIRACLE | 09.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 |
| SAT | 21 | STAR CLIPPER | 09.00 | 18.00 | I | 1 |
| | | EXPLORER OF THE SEAS | 16.30 | **** | C | 1 |
| | | STAR PRIDE | 06.00 | 18.00 | B | 1 |
| SUN | 22 | EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept. | **** | 18.00 | C | - |
| | | FREEWINDS - DEPT. | **** | 22.15 | E | - |

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and estab-

lishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Eagle beach
One bedroom week 51
Room # 329 A ocean view
Thursday check in
Price :\$ 9000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Resort

Eagle beach
One bedroom week 02
Room # 5538
Pool view Saturday check in
Price :\$9000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

24/7

Classifieds

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm Beach
3 BR 3 Bath Penthouse
Week # 6 room # 771
Contract expire :2053
Price :\$65,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo Resorts

Palm beach
2 x 1 BR Floating weeks
Platinum level All inclusive
Price :\$10,000 each
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo Resort

Palm beach
Jr , suites week #2,3,4
All inclusive
Price :\$9000 each week
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo Resort

Palm beach
One bedroom Floating week
2 to 17 Prime time All inclusive
Price :\$12,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo resort

Palm beach
3 BR 3 Bath week 6 and 7
9th floor ocean front
All inclusive
Price :\$ 80,000 both weeks
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo resort

Palm Beach
One bedroom week # 8
All inclusive
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Quita beach resort

Eagle beach
Two Bedroom week #12
Room # 2002 /2012
Phase 2
Price :\$10,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott surf club

Palm beach
Two bedroom 2 bath
Ocean side
Platinum season
Price :\$25,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle Beach
One bedroom week # 52 room
3308
16 weeks remaining building C
Elevator ocean view
Price : \$10,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle Beach
One bedroom week # 1
Room # 3208
11 weeks remaining building C
elevator ocean view
Price :\$7000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle beach
Studio week #1 room # 8201
Contract expire : 2043
Building D
Price :\$8000
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle beach
Studio wk # 5 room # 8105
Building D 1 st floor
Contract expire : 01/22/2037
Price :\$8000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village Golf

Eagle beach
One bedroom week # 9
Room # 2118 birdie 3
23 weeks remaining
Price :\$9000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm beach
One bedroom week 52 room
953 One bedroom week 01
room # 654
Contract expire : 2053
Price :\$60,000 both weeks
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm beach
Two bedroom week 01 room
#672
Contract expire :31 st December
2047
Price :\$35 ,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

All Time -Share owners !

Do you want to sell your
Time -Share ?
Contact the experts
38 Years doing business
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
Website:httaruba.com

For Rent

Eagle Resort
Eagle Beach
One bedroom sleep 4
Date : 27 December 3 January
2025
Price : \$2000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For Rent

La Cabana beach and casino
Eagle beach
One bedroom sleep 4
Date : 19 December to 26 De-
cember 2024
Price : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For rent

Renaissance ocean suites
Private islands
One bedroom sleep 4
Date : 3 to 17 January 2025
Price :\$2000 each week
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For Rent

Divi Village Golf
Eagle Beach
One Bedroom sleep 4
Date :8 February to 15 February
2025
Price :\$2000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance ocean suites

Private islands
One bedroom week # 51
Room # 2136
Ground floor garden / ocean
view
Price :\$ 12,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance ocean suites

Private islands
One bedroom week # 01
Room # 2522
5th floor garden view
Price :\$11000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance ocean suites

Private islands
One bedroom week #2
Room # 2325
Pool /ocean view
Price :\$11,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For rent

Barcelo resort
3 BR 3 Bath sleep 12
Date : 8 February to 22 Febru-
ary 2025
All inclusive
Price :\$5000 each week
Call:011-297-630-1307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village golf

Eagle beach
One bedroom week 50 room
#2258 Birdie 10
24 weeks remaining on the
contract Price :\$ 8000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village golf

Eagle beach
One bedroom week # 51
Room # 2258 Birdie 10
24 weeks remaining on the
contract Price : \$ 12,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
One Bedroom Week # 3
Room # 2318 \$ 9000
Studio WK # 3
room # 2317 \$8000
Both units :\$16,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
Studio WK # 4 room # 2129
Contract expire :12/31/2045
Price :\$8000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
Studio week 5,6,7,8,9
Room # 2350 Birdie 10
35 weeks remaining on the
contract
Price :\$10,000 each week
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott destination points

For sale @\$5,00 a points
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
httaruba.com



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto:Tel.584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Police | 100 |
| Oranjestad | 527 3140 |
| Noord | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

TAXI SERVICES

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Taxi Tas | 587 5900 |
| Prof. Taxi | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv. | 280 2828 |

TRAVEL INFO

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Aruba Airport | 524 2424 |
| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue | 588 2244 |
| Surinam | 582 7896 |

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Small businesses say cautious shoppers are seeking 'cozy' and 'festive' this holiday season

By **MAE ANDERSON**
AP Business Writer

After the busy Black Friday holiday weekend, Kristen Tarnol, owner of Emerald City Gifts in Studio City, California, is already asking her supplier to send more more fuzzy alpaca scarves and warm slippers that were best sellers over the weekend.

"Even though it's Los Angeles ... I think people are looking for cozy items, really," she said.

With a late Thanksgiving, the holiday shopping season is five days shorter than last year, and owners of small retail shops say people have been quick to snap up holiday décor early, along with gifts for others and themselves. Cozy items like sweaters are popular so far. But there's little sense of the freewheeling spending that occurred during the pandemic.

Overall, The National Retail



Claudia Averette, left, and her daughter, Atiya Smith pose for a photograph at their shop, Between Friends Boutique, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Federation predicts retail sales in November and December will rise between 2.5% and 3.5% compared with same period a year ago. Online shopping is expected to grow too. Adobe Digital Insights, a division of software company Adobe, predicts an 8.4% increase online for the full season.

Comfort and 'whimsy' Some owners say shopping has been erratic so far this holiday season. Nathan Waldon, who owns Nathan & Co., with two gift shops in Oakland, California, said he had his best Black Friday

ever, with sales up 32%. But business slowed dramatically after that. He's hoping it picks up again soon. "I still feel like I'm optimistic for the season," he said. "But it's definitely going to be one of those roller coaster seasons again." He said comforting items are selling: Scarves, hats and gloves, humorous Christmas and Hanukkah cards and bright colors. "People want that sense of whimsy, that sense of fun," he said. "A couple of seasons ago everything was sort of muted and earthy, and now everyone is crav-

ing happy colors."

One of his top sellers is a bright pink sweater with the word "Merry" written in big letters that sells for \$120. But generally, shoppers are looking to spend less than half of that, he said.

"It could be they could buy the \$25 item, but then they'll add on a little something extra," he said. "It seems to me that the sweet spot is between 40 and 50 bucks."

Bouncing back Small businesses in some parts of the country are hoping holiday shopping helps them recover from extreme weather during the year. In Florida, Jennifer Johnson, owner of consignment shop True Fashionistas in Naples, Florida, had a slow summer season, partly because the area was hit by three hurricanes this year. She decided to increase her Black Friday weekend discount this year to draw in shoppers offering a 25%-off deal rather than the 18% to 20% she normally offers. It worked. The store had record sales days over the weekend. People snapped up festive Christmas outfits and Christmas décor. The Christmas décor, including ornaments, candles and other home decorations, is

selling faster than last year, she said.

"Last year we were out of Christmas stuff like by the second week of December, and we're almost out of it now and it's only the first week of December," Johnson said.

As for clothing: "anything sequins, anything that has had bedazzling on it, anything that looks fine and festive is what they were buying," she said.

At her three Philadelphia-area Serendipity shops that sell clothing, accessories and home goods, owner Nicole Beltz also faced weather-related challenges in foot traffic over the year, including snow in the first quarter, a lot of rain in the second quarter and extreme heat in the third quarter.

An unpredictable economy and tough competition on pricing from bigger chains were also obstacles during the year.

During the Black Friday weekend, she offered 20% off for orders of \$75 or more and 30% off orders of \$150 and more. Last year she just offered discounts on select items, not blanket discounts.

"We gave out our biggest incentive ever for shoppers to come out with discounts and promos. I certainly think that that was necessary this year," she said.

Beltz' customers gravitated toward prices either under \$20 or around \$100. At her shops, Philadelphia Eagles and Taylor Swift merchandise were the top sellers, including \$14 socks and \$99 sweaters.

"One is the impulse category, where if it's under \$20, they'll buy it.

No matter what," she said. "And then the second category would be for really people that are coming in looking for a gift.

We're pushing the \$100 sale. We try to keep our best sellers, like those sweaters and those items that people are really grabbing for a nice holiday gift at \$99, right under the \$100 mark." □

ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

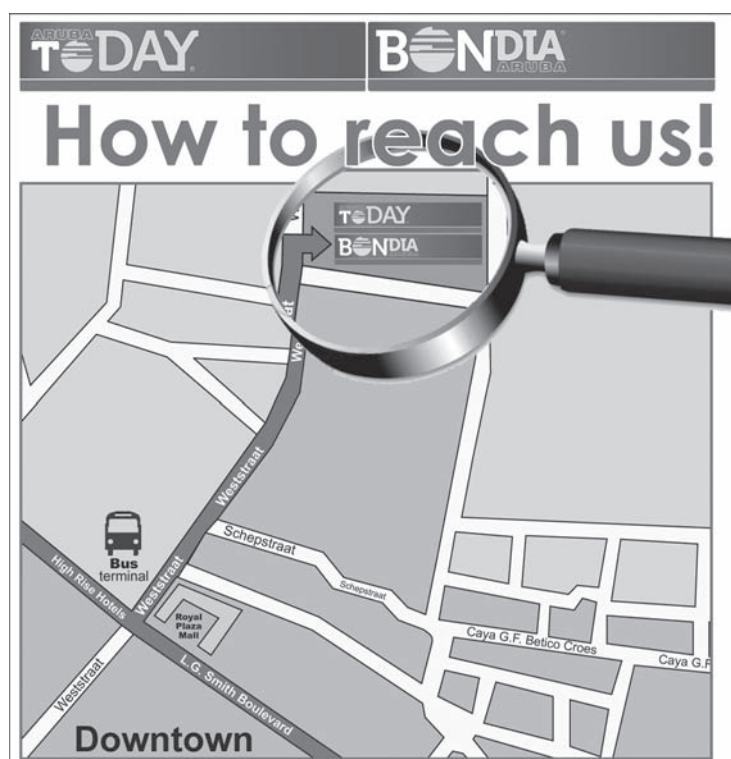
Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday



Point guard Dennis Schroder traded by Brooklyn to Golden State

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

By adding Dennis Schroder, the Golden State Warriors believe they have found the perfect backcourt mate to complement Stephen Curry.

Curry can't wait to get going in what he expects to be a "seamless transition for him."

"It can help me, it can help us," Curry said. "What helps me helps us."

Golden State landed Schroder in a trade with Brooklyn finalized Sunday that sends injured guard De'Anthony Melton and guard Reece Beekman to the Nets.

The Warriors are looking forward to seeing Schroder on both ends, attacking the basket and bringing a much-needed intense defensive dynamic.

"I just love his competitive nature, he's got that Dawg in him and you can kind of tell," Curry said. "He doesn't talk that much but he's very animated and I've never not seen him in the moment trying to rip-your-head-off type vibe. I like that." Schroder is expected to join the team Monday to undergo his physical and have a couple of practices



Brooklyn Nets' Dennis Schroder reacts after scoring during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

ahead of Thursday's game at Memphis.

"I'm thrilled. I told Dennis today he's kicked my (butt) on three different continents," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "You can't beat 'em, join 'em '22 playoffs I thought he was brilliant against us with the Lakers. Watching him in FIBA the last two summers, Philippines and we played them in London in an exhibition game. He's a gamer, he's a competitor, pick-

and-roll player, two-way player."

Kerr said he and his staff will discuss Schroder's role but considers him a likely starter considering "we've been changing our starting lineup almost nightly, searching."

The trade was agreed to Saturday. League rules didn't allow the trade to become official until Sunday, when Melton's contract became eligible to be moved.

Also in the trade: a slew of second-round draft picks. Golden State will receive a second-rounder next year (a top-37-protected pick that originally belonged to Miami) and Brooklyn gets three second-rounders in 2026 and 2028 (both via Atlanta) and Golden State's pick in 2029.

Schroder averaged 18.4 points and 6.6 assists this season for the Nets, who are 10th in the Eastern Conference. But the trade

doesn't give them much in the way of on-court help this year: Melton is out for the remainder of the season while recovering from surgery to repair his left ACL. "Losing Melt was a huge loss," Kerr said. "I want to say thanks to De'Anthony and Reece Beekman for everything their contributions, their commitment, their effort. It's always hard to trade guys and we wish them both well. But you've got to do what you've got to do to get better and this was a move that we felt made perfect sense, so he will fill what Melt was doing for us in terms of being able to play on or off the ball, excellent defender, long wingspan. He's a steals guy, forced turnovers, pace, everything that we need we feel like he can provide." Beekman scored two points in two appearances with Golden State this season. The move gives the Warriors, who enter Sunday fifth in the Western Conference at 14-10, another shooter to pair alongside all-time 3-point leader Curry. Schroder is making 2.5 3-pointers per game this season and shooting 39% from beyond the arc both career bests. □

Atlanta and Seattle to play first WNBA regular season game in Canada in August

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

The WNBA will stage its first regular season game outside the U.S. when Atlanta and Seattle play in Vancouver on Aug. 15, the league announced Monday.

The league has had two exhibition games in Canada, including one played by Seattle in Edmonton this past season. The Toronto Tempo will begin play in 2026 as the first international team in league history.

"The WNBA Canada Game has been a tremendous opportunity to grow our league's footprint, and we look forward to hosting the first-ever international regular season game with the Seattle Storm's return to Canada to face the At-

lanta Dream," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said. "As we prepare to establish permanent roots in Canada with a Toronto franchise, this game and our year-round engagement efforts are a nod to the incredible momentum around women's basketball in Canada."

The Dream participated in the first preseason WNBA game in Europe when they beat the British national team in 2011. "This is a monumental moment for the WNBA, and we are honored that the league chose the Dream to participate in the first regular-season game outside the U.S.," Atlanta Dream president and COO Morgan Shaw Parker said. "We look forward to

showcasing our amazing athletes on a global stage in Vancouver. Members of our team have competed internationally, and now they will be doing so wearing Dream colors and representing the city of Atlanta." This will mark the fifth WNBA game played outside the U.S., with a previous contest played in Mexico in 2004 to go along with the Canada and England games. Viewership in Canada was up 175% last season from the previous year and the league set new highs in the country across digital platforms, including WNBA League Pass and social media. "The WNBA Canada Game is an opportunity to showcase the WNBA and its talent to

more fans. The Storm is honored to be a part of this international celebration of basketball," Seattle CEO and president Alisha Valavanis said. "Playing in front

of fans in Edmonton in 2024 was a highlight of the season and we're looking forward to bringing the Storm energy back to Canada in 2025." □



WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert speaks at a news conference before Game 1 of basketball's WNBA Finals between the Connecticut Sun and the Washington Mystics, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

NFL can't revise the onside kick fast enough for Dan Campbell: Analysis

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL was already planning to explore the onside kick before Dan Campbell made a regrettable decision to try one at an unusual time.

Detroit's ultra-aggressive coach called for an onside kick with the Lions trailing the Bills by 10 points and 12 minutes remaining. Buffalo's Mack Hollins recovered the kick, ran it back to the 5 and the Bills scored on the next play on their way to a 48-42 victory Sunday in a potential Super Bowl preview.

Bringing back surprise onside kicks would benefit coaches like Campbell, who aren't afraid to take



Detroit Lions head coach Dan Campbell speaks at a news conference after an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, in Detroit.

Associated Press

consider options to revive the onside kick because it has become "a dead play." The league made dynamic changes to the kickoff rules in the offseason to bring back returns. That has worked at the expense of the onside kick.

"I think all has to be on the table," Vincent said. "When we adjusted the kickoff five, six years ago, that also (impacted) the onside kick. You used to have overload, attack blocks, trap blocks that occurred on that play, which was a pretty dangerous play. You can set people up for failures is what we would say."

"I think you have to look at all aspects. You should be able to do that in any quarter. It's not a surprise onside kick. I think all of those things have to come back to the table. We should explore. Our effort should be to make every single play a competitive play and that includes that play whether it's first quarter or fourth quarter."

Perhaps the best option would be giving a team an opportunity to run one play to gain a certain number of yards to keep possession. Because it'll be difficult to revise the onside kick without changing the overall formation all kickoffs, this radical idea may be the best solution.

The Eagles proposed an onside kick alternative that would've let teams try a fourth-and-20 from their own 20. Club owners rejected it in a vote during the league's annual spring meetings.

"It has garnered (more votes from) where we started and the votes that it received and where it ended a year ago," Vincent said. "There has been progress, but those are all the things that we should be exploring. We have to be creative. And I think our coaches, they can be creative enough to come up with a good solid, competitive play to bring some excitement back in those situations." □

risks. Nobody likes to gamble more than Campbell, who isn't shy about going for it on fourth down no matter the situation.

Campbell attempted this onside kick out of desperation. Detroit's injury-riddled defense couldn't stop Josh Allen and the Bills. Buffalo had five touchdowns, one field goal and one missed field goal in its first nine possessions when the Lions tried the onside kick.

"I thought we'd get that ball," Campbell said. "I wish I hadn't done it."

The Bills knew it was coming because teams must declare an onside kick and can only try it in the fourth quarter under the league's overhauled kickoff rules. The element of surprise the Saints once executed an onside kick to start the second half in a Super Bowl has been eliminated this season due to the new rules, which further reduced the success rate. Executing successful onside kicks began to decline in 2018 when the NFL banned running starts on kickoffs. The success rate was cut in half to 8.6% since that change.

Entering Week 15, only 3 of 41 (7.3%) onside kicks were recovered.

NFL executive Troy Vincent said last week the competition committee has to

Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

USD \$55pp*
Kids 6-12 yrs. pay ½ price

Book your table at
RenArubaEvents.com
and party like a local!

Renaissance Ocean Suites Beach
Thursday Nights, 6:30-10pm

**DUSHI ARUBA THIS WAY:
PARTY LIKE A LOCAL.**

RENAISSANCE
WIND CREEK ARUBA RESORT

*Plus service charge